

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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FOR HA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATING THE MOVEMENT TO THE
US OF APPROVED INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 14019 (B) BANGKOK 13748

1. REF A DESCRIBED THE CONTINENTAL AIRLINES PROPOSAL
TO TICKET ALL REFUGEES FROM ANDGKOK TO THEIR FINAL
DESTINATION IN THE UNITED STATES, AND HANDLE THEIR
TRANSPORT FROM THE TRANSIT CENTER TO THE AIRPORT.

2. A PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE OF THE CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL
APPEARS TO BE THAT CONTINENTAL EMPLOYEES WOULD
MANAGE THE TICKETING FUNCTION THAT ICEM NOW HANDLES,
THUS SAVING THE SALARY AND CONTRACT OVERHEAD COSTS
OF AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO ICEM WESTERN
STAFF EMPLOYEES, AND SEVERAL LOCAL. AN ADDITIONAL
SAVING MIGHT ENSUE FROM CONTINENTALJS ABILITY TO
TICKET AS CHEAPLY AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE FINAL DOMESTIC
LEG OF THE REFUGEE'S ITINEARY. ICEM POINTS OUT THAT
THIS TICKETING FUNCTION IS NOW ALREADY BORNE BY
NORTHWEST AND PAN AMERICAN, DEPENDING ON WHICH AIRLINE
TAKES THE REFUGEE ACROSS THE PACIFIC. ALTHOUGH THE
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AIRLINES DO HANDLE THE TICKETING FUNCTION, ICEM STAFF
IS STILL REQUIRED FOR MOVEMENT.

3. A POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGE OF DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH
CONTINENTAL FOR TICKETING IS THAT OTHER DOMESTIC
CARRIERS MIGHT FEEL THEY AR NOT GETTING THEIR FAIR
SHAR. HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A

PROBLEM WHEN ICEM USED CONTINENTAL IN 1976. IN TERMS OF ALLOCATING SPACES TO CARRIERS FOR THE TRANS-OCEANIC PORTION OF THE ROUTE, CONTINENTAL COULD BE INSTRUCTED, AS IS THE CASE WITH ICEM, TO USE FOREIGN CARRIERS ONLY WHEN U.S. COMPANIES ARE FULLY BOOKED.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MEASURES TO ACCELERATE REFUGEE DEPARTURES SHOULD BE TAKEN SOON (REF B). EITHER CONTINENTAL ALONE, OR CONTINENTAL UNDER A SEPARATE ICEM UNIT DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE AMERICAN PROGRAM, WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE CURRENT SITUATION. THEY WOULD ALSO BE CHEAPER.

5. THE CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL DOES NOT COVER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR REFUGEES. IF THE DEPARTMENT DECIDES ON EITHER OF THE ALTERNATIVES LIMITED IN PARAGRAPH 4, WE RECOMMEND THAT A RENEGOTIATED CONTRACT WITH ICEM INCLUDE ICEM'S CONTINUED ROLE IN HANDLING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.
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